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What Books We Should Read.

The following facts and statements are from a lecture delivered at Normal, Illinois, by Dr. J. W. Gregory, Regent of the Illinois Industrial University:

The Astor Library in New York contained, in 1860, 100,000 volumes. If one were able to read one volume a day it would take him 273 years to finish the library. The Imperial Library of Paris contains 1,084,000 volumes. Germany alone produces 10,000 books annually. In 1864, 4,553 books were issued in Great Britain, and 2,128 in America, exclusive of pamphlets. Only 301 of these American books were reprints. Probably 30,000 new books are annually produced in the whole world.

There are in the United States some 3,000 newspapers, of which 250 are dailies. So vast is the world of literature, and so vain the attempt for one individual to endeavor to read the merest fraction of it. *

The variety of books is as remarkable as their number. There are the same types of books as of men. Many of the second class books contain only the drippings of other men's minds-"calf-skin without, and calf unskinned within." There are books which teach and books which move; belligerent books, books, often vainly seeking to explode some venerable truth; books like the Bible, the eternal source of light, or as transitory as the meteor; scolding books, like those of Gail Hamilton, etc.

Amid this multitude of new books the young reader stands perplexed, and needs some help in the selection of reading matter.

What are the essential qualities of a good book? 1. A good style, clear and easily understood. Emerson and Carlyle were censured for their unnecessary obscarily of style, and Tupper's Proverbial | corrupting, devilish, floods the land, and Philpsophy was characterized as a literary "old clothes' shop." Gilfillan, Hendley, and the slovenly humorists of the present deliver us from the body of this death?" day, with their fantastic false spelling. Some of it is so vile that it shuns the light, were severely commented upon. What and skulks in nools, and corners, and byis needed in books is vitality vigor. There | ways, and works its deadly results in the are words which are half are books which are freight, s, sumships that. But when one sees, as he may in any on the ocean of mind.

2. Truchfatuess, not only in facts, but in their grouping. A book may contain a thousand truths, and yet be false in its general drift. Two authors may make the same events teach entirely different lessons. Witness Alison and Lamartine. The popular humorists, particularly Dickens, were criticised for making simple things grotesque, and for what the lecturer called their "cheap humor."

Wholesome and genial spirit. Some books are like foul dens or eaves peopled by spectres. Others like a spring walk in the meadows. Shelly's poetry leaves the reader's mind like the author's, beclouded and unhappy. The poetry of Cowper on the other hand, is sweet and pure, and leaves the reader better and healthier for the reading.

To answer the question, How to read? it is necessary to inquire, What do we read forf

Readers may be divided into three classes:

1. Professional readers, like the clergyman and lawyer. For such no rule is required, as necessity will devise methods suited to individual cases.

2. Those who read for improvement.

5. Those who read for amusement. There is a class of readers which remind . one of a railroad car, skimming swiftly over many subjects, but whom a pebble can throw off the track. They read with no concentration of mind, and carry nothing away but dust.

Next in folly are the conscientions readers, who assign themselves a deffinite ask and plod wearily on—the eye reading -the mind sleeping. As sensible would it be to sit down to read Webster's Unabridged through by course.

1. Read the thing that you already know most about. The process may be illustrated by the rolling of snow balls. If one continues to roll a single ball it will constantly increase in bulk until it grows to a great size, and even takes up no small portion of the solid earth. This is reading with a purpose. Too many readers are like those who are constantly rolling little snow balls and then throwing them away.

2. Read as you would paint a picture, Sketch an autline first, and never read at

"Rooms for Rent," "Houses Wanted," Lands and Lots for Sale or Lease the thous cand wants of the community, that can be expressed in two lines, will be made known through the Bulletin for fifteen cents!

Come on with your advertisements.

Constitution of the Southern Illinois Ed-

The following is the Constitution of the "Southern Illinois Educational Association," organized at Centralia, September 1st, 1868:

CONSTITUTION. ARTICLE 1.—This Association shall be called the Southern Illinois Educational

Association. ART. II.—The object o this Association shall be to unite the teachers, school-officers and friends of education in Southern Illinois in the work of elevating the character and increasing the efficiency of

our schools ART. III.—This Association shall meet at least once a year, at such time and place as the Association shall, either by direct vote or by its Executive Committee

appoint.

ART. IV.—Gentlemen may become members of this Association by signing the Constitution and paying one dollar to the Treasurer. Ladies may become members by signing the Constitution.

ART. V.—The officers shall consist of a President, six Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of three persons, who shall be elected by of three persons, who shall be elected by ballot, and shall hold their respective offices for the term of one year and until

their successors are elected.

ART. VI.—This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association, by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR THE YEAR. President-Robert Allyn, D. D., President of McKendree College, St. Clair

Vice-Presidents-J. Hurty, of Edgar; W. H. V. Paymond, of Madison; D. G. Young, of Williamson; J. A. Kennedy, of Monroe ; J. C. Scott, of Richland ; Joel G. Morgan, of Alexander.

Secretary-James P. Slade, of St.

Treasurer-James W. Blair, of Perry. Executive Committee-Prof. Clark Braden, of Jackson; E. P. Burlingham, of Alexander; W. F. Gorrell, of Christian

The next meeting of the association will be held at Mattoon, commencing the last Tuesday in August, 1869, providing the railroads centering there will grant free return tickets.

Books.

Power in itself is neither good nor bad. It works for good or evil according to its use. It is an instrument, and its effect is determined by the moral state and aim of him who wields it. The knife, so necessary a tool to the honest shoemaker, becomes a murderous implement in the assassin's hand.

It may well be doubted whether the power to read (and by this I mean not simply the power to call words from the printed page, but the ability to drink in and appropriate the thoughts and sentiments of the writer) it may well be doubted, I say, whether this power has, on the whole, been a blessing or a curse to mankind. When one remembers what a mass of printed matter, poisonous, find readers and lovers, he may well doubt, and exclaim with the apostle, "Who shall s. There dark-none the less deadly, however, for respectable news-room or book-store, the les of trash like the New York Ledger. Beadle's Dime Novels,' etc., which crowd the counters and chelves, and obsthrong of buyers-many of whom are hardly in their teens-that eagerly purchase the stuff, he may well querry whether the time will not come when to sell such poison will not be esteemed. as it ought to be, no better than the keeping of a retail grog-shop, and pray that Providence may speedily send us a "Maine law" that shall prohibit this corrupting truffic also.

Why will human beings, with minds capable of better things, turn aside to feed upon such garbage when the wise and good and entertaining of all time are waiting between the covers of books to bear them company? The sacred writers; Homer and the grand old poets; historians, the most learned and the most eloquent; philosophers, Aristotle, Bacon, and the rest; essayists, like Macaulay; novelists, like Dickens, Thackeray, Irving, and a host more; poets of nature, like Hugh Miller; genial companions, like the "Country Parson;" broad humorists, like Tom Hood and Holmes, and a multitude of others, more than I can mention, only wait our invitation to take a chair beside us, and to pour their richest and most elaborate thoughts and conceptions into our willing minds. How modestly they come, equally willing to speak or to be silent, as we bid them! Who can be lonely-who can find time hang heavy on his hands-who can seek for pastimes, amid such a "goodly company?" And shall we turn from them to follow fools, mounicbanks, and "jack-o'lanterns?" or shall we so cram ourselves with their wise, witty and genial sayings, that we have no time or power left to digest and ap propriate them? For a good book benefits us no more by what it tells us than by what it lads us to think for ourselves. "Beware the man of one book," says the proverb. A little at a time from the rich stores of literature, thoroughly digested and assimilated, so prepares one that his opponent may well beware. Let me urge upon you to have open ears and open minds for the noble ones who "being dead, yet speak."

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